

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES  
U.S. Application No.: 09/297,382

**REMARKS**

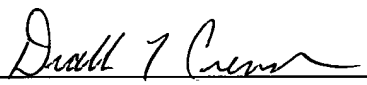
The present Amendment is being submitted concurrent with a Response to Election of Species.

Entry and consideration of the Amendment are respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 10 and 17 are canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

9. (Amended) An amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback ~~(18, 19, 21)~~ of the amplifiers ~~(13, 14; 15, 16)~~ to enable COTDR, ~~characterized by said~~ fiber optic link comprising means for widening the spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction, wherein said means for widening the spectrum comprises wavelength modulation means.

11. (Twice amended) The link according to claim ~~109~~, wherein the wavelength modulation means effect wavelength modulation with a modulation rate in the range from 0.5 kHz to 10 GHz.

12. (Thrice amended) The link according to claim ~~109~~, wherein the wavelength modulation means vary the wavelength over a range greater than a few times the bit rate of the link.

14. (Amended) An amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback of the amplifiers to enable COTDR, said fiber optic link comprising means for widening the spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction~~A link according to~~

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~~claim 9, characterized in that wherein the spectrum widening means~~ for widening the spectrum  
comprises phase modulation means.

18. (Twice amended) The method claimed in claim ~~17~~16, wherein the modulation rate is in the range from 0.5 kHz to 10 GHz.

21. (Amended) A method of reducing interaction between the signal in one transmission direction and backscattered noise originating from the other transmission direction in an amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback of the amplifiers to enable COTDRA method according to claim 16, wherein a spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction is widened by ~~characterized in that the spectrum is widened by~~ phase modulation.